

Message Text

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ARA/USOAS - MR. MONSMA

EUR - MR. RENDAHL

NEA/IRN - MR. MICHAUD

AF/RA - MR. WALKER

IO/UNP - MR. KIMBALL

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R 162324Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFOR, ME, UNRWA

SUBJ: UNRWA FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

1. CHAIRMAN OF UNRWA "WORKING GROUP ON UNRWA FINANCES"
(WG), AMB. OSMAN OLCAY (TURKEY), ON JUNE 21 SENT URGENT
WRITTEN APPEAL TO PERM REPS/OBSERVERS IN NY FOR ADDITIONAL
FUNDS FOR UNRWA, WHICH NOW FACES LARGE DEFICIT BY END OF

CY 73. WG IS NOW INSTITUTING FOLLOW-UP ACTION AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF ITS 9 MEMBERS (FRANCE, GHANA, JAPAN, LEBANON, NORWAY, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UK, US) IN CAPITALS THROUGHOUT WORLD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR WILL TAKE LEAD IN CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS IN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. IN ABSENCE OF TURKISH MISSION, POST MAY BE APPROACHED BY GHANA (WG VICE-CHAIRMAN) OR BY NORWAY (WG RAPPORTEUR). ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE THOSE CAPITALS TO WHICH WG SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDS THAT AN APPROACH BE MADE. INFO COUNTRIES (EXCEPT USUN, BEIRUT, OTHER WG MEMBERS) ARE THOSE WITH WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF WG MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING FOLLOW-UP ACTION. WG BASED ITS CHOICE OF ADDRESSEES ON RECORD OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA, INTEREST SHOWN IN WORK OF UNRWA AND OF WG,POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE, AND WG ESTIMATE OF CHANCES FOR SUCCESS.

2. IF TURKISH (OR GHANAIA/NORWEGIAN) AMB ASKS YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING DISCUSS UNRWA, DEPT BELIEVES YOU

SHOULD ATTEND MEETING AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE AND INDICATE US SUPPORT, AS MEMBER OF WG, FOR THESE EFFORTS ELICIT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED AT YOUR DISCRETION TO JOIN IN AN APPROACH TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF UNRWA. WE FEEL IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE PRODUCTIVE FOR UNRWA IF OTHERS THAN US TAKE LEAD IN FUND-RAISING EFFORTS. CURRENT WG EFFORTS ARE CONSONANT WITH OUR LONGSTANDING DESIRE TO GET OTHERS -- PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GIVEN IN THE PAST -- TO GIVE TO UNRWA. MAIN NEED OF UNRWA AT THIS TIME IS CASH. HOWEVER CERTAIN SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND (E.G. FLOUR, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS) MAY BE APPROPRIATELY MENTIONED IN CERTAIN CAPITALS. WITH RESPECT TO EAST
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EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, WG FELT THAT APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE BOTH IN CAPITALS AND THROUGH CHAIRMAN OF THE EE GROUP IN NEW YORK. CHAIRMAN OF WG MAY APPROACH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (E.G. OAS, OAU). FYI. COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF UNRWA HAS SUGGESTED AND WG CONCURS THAT FOR TIME BEING APPROACHES TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE LEFT TO HIM. END
FYI.

3. BACKGROUND. THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA), CREATED IN 1949, PROVIDES FOOD, HOUSING, SCHOOLING AND HEALTH SERVICES TO REGISTERED ARAB REFUGEES OF THE 1948-49 ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, SOME SERVICES TO PERSONS DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF THE 1967 WAR. THE REFUGEE POPULATION REGISTERED WITH UNRWA AS OF 3/31/73

TOTALED ABOUT 1,532,287. UNRWA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION HAS BECOME CRITICAL OVER LAST FEW MONTHS AND AGENCY NOW FACES LIKELY SHORTFALL OF DOLS 4 MILLION BY END OF CY 73, DUE TO COMBINATION OF CURRENCY FLUCTUATION AND INFLATION. UNRWA HAS ACUTE NEED TO AUGMENT DEPLETED WORKING CAPITAL FUND AS WELL. THE US HAS CONTRIBUTED OVER HALF A BILLION DOLLARS TO UNRWA SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT. OUR FY 73 PLEDGE WAS DOLS 23.2 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS TO THE AGENCY. EDUCATION EXPENSES ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY HALF THE UNRWA BUDGET.

4. FOR USUN. REQUEST ANY FURTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA. RUSH

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